



San Francisco, California, May 5, 1906—Library of Congress

Historical Photographs

Attempts to photograph the surface of the Earth date from the 1800's, when photographers attached cameras to balloons, kites, and even pigeons. Today, aerial photographs and satellite images are commonplace.

The rate of acquiring aerial photographs and satellite images has increased rapidly in recent years. Views of the Earth obtained from aircraft or satellites have become valuable tools to Government resource planners and managers, land-use experts, environmentalists, engineers, scientists, and a wide variety of other users.

Many people want historical aerial photographs for business or personal reasons. They may want to locate the boundaries of an old farm or a piece of family property. Or they may want a photograph as a record of changes in their neighborhood, or as a gift.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maintains the Earth Science Information Centers (ESIC's) to sell not only aerial photographs, but also remotely sensed images from satellites, a wide array of digital geographic and cartographic data, and the Bureau's well-known maps. Declassified photographs from early spy



Plattsburgh, New York, 1940—U.S. Geological Survey, aerial mapping photograph

satellites were recently added to the ESIC offerings of historical images. In addition, ESIC researchers can help customers find imagery in the collections of other Federal agencies and, in some cases, those of private companies that specialize in esoteric products.

ESIC offices will also research requests for information about photographs and take



Jefferson County, Colorado, 1937—National Archives, Cartographic and Architectural Branch, aerial mapping photograph

orders for aerial and space photographs.
U.S. Geological Survey

At the EROS Data Center, near Sioux Falls, S. Dak., the USGS maintains the National Land Remote Sensing Data Archive, including, beside countless satellite images, some 8 million aerial photographs of the United States. Some of them date to the 1940's. More recent

products are standard-ized under the National Aerial Photography Program. All of the products can be researched and ordered by contacting:

USGS EROS Data Center
Customer services
Sioux Falls, SD 57198

Phone: 605-594-6151
E-mail: custserv@edcserver1.cr.usgs.gov

Indirect access to the archive is available through any ESIC.

National Archives and Records Administration

Most aerial mapping photographs of the United States taken for Federal agencies before 1941 have been assembled at the Cartographic and Architectural Branch (CAB) of the National Archives. These photographs date from the mid-1930's and cover approximately 80 percent of the land area of the conterminous 48 United States. The CAB also maintains a collection of American military photographs of the United States from the 1940's-1960's and some German military photographs of Eastern Europe and Russia flown during World War II.

The Still Picture Branch (SPB) of the National Archives has a large collection of photographs taken from the air. These date from the early 20th century to the present. Both the CAB and the SPB maintain search rooms where visitors can search the files for the photographs they want. For mail inquiries, be specific in describing area locations and time eras. Also, include your name, address, and daytime telephone number in each inquiry. The National Archives office will return a research report and a price list for prints. The SPB will also send electrostatic copies of appropriate photographs.

For information from the CAB and the SPB, contact:

National Archives and Records
Administration
Cartographic and Architectural
Branch (NNSC)
8601 Adelphi Rd.
College Park, MD 20740-6001
301-713-7040

Library of Congress

In addition to the National Archives, the Library of Congress maintains a large



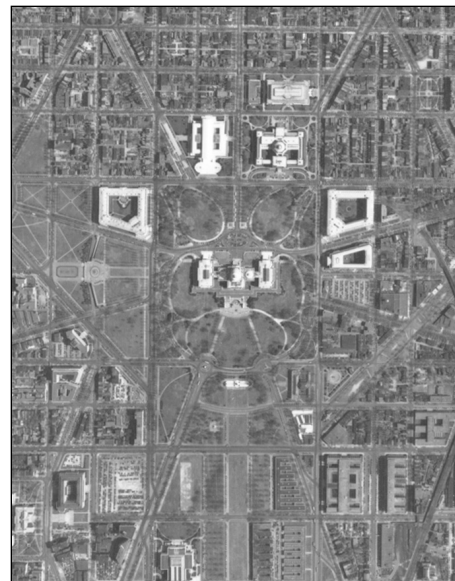
Lower Manhattan, New York, 1930's—National Archives, Still Picture Branch



Madison, Wisconsin, 1908—Library of Congress

collection of historical photographs, some of which are aerial photographs dating from 1900 to the 1940's. A few aerial photographs of the Connecticut countryside and Paris, France, taken from aerial balloons in the 1880's are also available, as is a series of panoramic views of U.S. cities taken between 1906-1908. The Library will perform a limited number of searches (less than 10) for a single mail inquiry, but visitors to Washington, D.C., are welcome to examine their research files. For more information contact:

Library of Congress
Prints and Photographs Division
James Madison Memorial Building
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.



Washington, D.C., 1949—U.S. Geological Survey, aerial mapping photograph

Washington, DC 20540-4840
202-707-6394

Information

For information on these and other USGS products and services, call 1-800-USA-MAPS, fax 703-648-5548, or e-mail esicmail@usgs.gov.

The EARTHFAX fax-on-demand system is available 24-hours a day, at 703-648-4888.

The address for the USGS home page is <URL: <http://www.usgs.gov/>>